18

# SUZUKA

KOUJI SEO

KOJI SEO

瀬尾公治

# 涼風 SUZUKA

18

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WHAT'S THE MATTER?

DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?

# SUZUKA 涼風

## #157 EXPECTATIONS

HUH ...?

MIZUHO

YOU SEEMED TO BE OUT OF IT EVEN AT THE TIME.

W... WELL, THAT'S ...

ROAD

WELL ...

AFTER SEMPAI REALLY CHEWED ME OUT, I'M OBVIOUSLY BUMMED.

...

WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?

THEY EXPECT A LOT OUT OF YOU, MAN...

...

★ THIS STORY IS FICTIONAL, AND COMPLETELY UNRELATED TO REAL PEOPLE, "GROUPS," OR EVENTS.

HUH ...?

THAT BOTHERS ME...

I DON'T KNOW HOW I EVEN PASSED THE TRYOUTS ...

AND A LOT OF OTHER GUYS WERE FASTER THAN ME.

I...I MEAN ...

...I JUST DON'T THINK I CAN DELIVER.

THEY EXPECT SO MUCH FROM ME...

I'M NOT EVEN THAT GREAT AN ATHLETE!

YOU'RE NOT GIVING UP BECAUSE OF THAT...

...ARE YOU?

...

YOU'RE STILL GONNA CONTINUE WITH TRACK, RIGHT?

HUH ...?

I DON'T KNOW ...

ANYWAY...

...I'M NOT EVEN THINKING ABOUT THAT RIGHT NOW.

GRAB!!!

AN-SWER ME...

WHAT THE HELL, MAN?

WHAT ELSE IS GOING ON WITH YOU BESIDES TRACK?

SHAKE!!!

IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU!!

YOU JUST WON'T DROP IT, WILL YOU?!

O...OW! WHAT GIVES?!

I...

...

KAB

POW

Buona Vita

THUD

OW!!

WHAT THE HELL ?!

PANT

PANT

DON'T BE AN IDIOT!

...GONNA FACE ME IN UNIVERSITY ?!

WEREN'T YOU...

HUH?

...THAT YOU WERE GONNA BEAT ME, NO MATTER WHAT SCHOOL YOU GO TO.

THAT YOU WEREN'T FOOLING AROUND ALL YEAR...

THAT'S WHAT YOU SAID, DIDN'T YOU...?

ARIMA...

...

...ALL JUST A LIE?

WAS THAT...

LIKE "WHAT DID AKITSUKI PLACE IN THE I.H?" AND "WHAT'S HIS CURRENT TIME?"...

WHEN WE WERE ABROAD, HE JUST KEPT ASKING ABOUT YOU...

SCRAPE

TO BE HONEST...

IT'S NOT A LIE...

BUT ...

...HE REALLY SEES YOU AS HIS RIVAL, Y'KNOW!

WHY THE HECK DID I END UP TELLING HIM...?

SHE'S PREG-NANT ...?

SO ...?

UH, YEAH ...

UH... SO SHE SAID SHE CAN'T HAVE THE BABY...

...BUT I DON'T THINK WE SHOULD ABORT IT, EITHER...

THAT'S WHY ...

...I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO...

BUT, NEITHER OF YOU WILL BE ABLE TO GO TO UNIVERSITY IF YOU HAVE THE BABY...

AND YOU'LL BURDEN A LOT OF OTHER PEOPLE, TOO...

CLATTER

I MEAN, WHAT IF SOMETHING HAPPENS TO ASAHINA...?

N... NO ONE ASKED FOR YOUR OPINION!!

IF IT WERE ME...

...I WOULDN'T THINK TWICE ABOUT ABORTING.

HUH ?!

WHO CARES ABOUT THAT?

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING TO ME...

...!!

ISN'T THAT THE CASE WITH YOU?

I...

...IS TRACK.

...ABOUT ASAHINA RIGHT NOW?

WHO GIVES A DAMN...

HUH ?!

I GIVE A DAMN...

CLENCH

WHA ...?!

THAT'S WHO!!

POW

WHAT THE HELL, MAN?!

THWACK

...IS OBVIOUS!!

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING TO ME...

WHAM!!

...

YOU'VE ALWAYS PISSED ME THE HELL OFF...

OOF!!

GETTING ALL COCKY WHEN YOU SHOULD'VE JUST LISTENED...!

H... HEY ...

NO KICKS, MAN! NO KICKS !!

SHUT UP!!

...!!

HAAAAA

SMACK

POW

...!!

ASAHIYU BATHS

ー!

BOOM

EEEK!!

WHAT ON EARTH HAPPENED TO YOU, YAMATO?! YOUR FACE!!

MEOW

UH, NO!! IT WASN'T SUZUKA'S DAD!!

FLUSTERED

FLUSTERED

WAHHH! THAT'S AWFUL!!

I KNOW YOU KEPT YOUR TRIP A SECRET, BUT STILL!!

I'M HOME ...

N... NEVER MIND THAT !!

DID SUZUKA-CHAN'S DAD HIT YOU?!

LACK OF SPIRIT? EVEN SO, THIS IS CROSS-ING THE LINE.

K... KINUGASA-SEMPAI SCOLDED ME ABOUT MY LACK OF SPIRIT.

HE SAID I'VE BEEN SLACKING OFF LATELY.

HUH? HE DIDN'T ?

OH... WAIT, YAMATO-KUN!

RATTLE カ'' ラ

RATTLE カ'' ラ

WELL, I'M TIRED, SO I'M GONNA HEAD IN!

G'NIGHT!!

A-ANYWAY, THINGS ARE FINE WITH ASAHINA!!

HER DAD FORGAVE ME!!

I DON'T KNOW ...

DO YOU THINK HE'S REALLY OKAY?

O...OH? THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR...

CLOP ナ ン

CLOP ナ ン

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING TO ME IS TRACK.

ISN'T THAT THE CASE WITH YOU?

OW, THAT HURTS ...

HOW'D HE GET SO GOOD AT FIGHTING...?

SHIT ...

...

HMPH.

ASAHINA ...

...IS WHAT'S MOST IMPORTANT TO ME.

ASAHINA BATHS

涼風

SUZUKA

# #158 THE PRAYER

ASATIYU BATHS

THAT WAS DELICIOUS. THANKS!

...

ソワ

FIDGET

ソワ

FIDGET

IT JUST ISN'T THE HOLIDAYS WITHOUT HAVING SOBA NOODLES HERE ON NEW YEAR'S EVE.

SZZT

SAO-TOME-SAN, YOU'RE LOOKING PALE AGAIN.

IT WAS DELI-CIOUS, AYANO-SAN.

OH, REALLY? THANK YOU!

HUH? UH...

SSSIP

WELL, NOT THAT THAT'S ANY-THING NEW.

WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU SEEM SO REST-LESS.

...YOU'RE ITCHING TO SEE YOUR BELOVED SUZUKA-CHAN.

N... NO!! I'M NOT...

OH. SO ...

12月

HE PROMISED SUZUKA THAT HE'D GO WITH HER TO THEIR FIRST SHRINE OF THE YEAR.

...!!

SHUT UP, YOU DRUNK!!

...!!

IF YOU WEREN'T SUCH AN IDIOT, SHE WOULD'VE BEEN ABLE TO STAY HERE. POOR GIRL.

UH, YEAH ...

YOU'RE RIGHT ...

WELL... YOU'RE GOING TO THE SAME SCHOOL AND YOU'RE ON THE SAME SPORTS TEAM, SO...

...YOU JUST HAVE TO HOLD ON A LITTLE LONGER!

SPEAK OF THE DEVIL...

ピンポーン DING-DONG

HUG!!!

EEK!

SUZUKA-CHAAAN! LONG TIME NO SEE!!

GOOD EVE-NING!

SHAKE

SHAKE

W... WELL, I WAS ALSO TO BLAME, SO...

IT MUST'VE SUCKED TO GET GROUNDED 'CAUSE OF YAMATO-KUN.

HUH ?

HEY!! DON'T BE SO ROUGH WITH HER!!

WHAT? I'M EVEN MAKING YOU JEALOUS?

HOW CRAZY ARE YOU ABOUT SUZUKA-CHAN?

...!

SO WHAT IS IT, THEN?

THAT'S NOT IT!!

I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT IT ON THE WAY!!

HUH?!

WHA?!

SEE YOU AROUND, YUKA-SAN! HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

UH... HEY!

HUH? UH...

HEY, WHAT HAP-PENED TO YOUR FACE, YAMATO-KUN?

YOU GOT REALLY BEAT UP!!

SAOTOME-SAN, WE GOTTA CATCH THE BUS SOON.

SOME-THING'S UP...

ナリワ CHATTER

YOU GOT IN A FIGHT?

HUH?

HM? UH, IT WAS JUST AN ARGU-MENT ...

WHY? WHAT DID HE SAY TO YOU...?

I...I MEAN—

WHAT IF YOU GOT REALLY HURT?

WHAT WERE YOU THINK-ING?!

YEAH ...

KINUGASA-SEMPAI AND I WERE HAVING DINNER, WHEN MIYAMOTO-SENPAI AND ARIMA JOINED US...AND THEN, ON THE WAY HOME, I SORTA GOT INTO IT WITH ARIMA...

UH... OF COURSE NOT, MA'AM ...

THAT'S NOT SOME-THING TO BE PROUD OF.

...I GOT TWO OR THREE GOOD PUNCHES IN, TOO, Y'KNOW!

YEAH, HE ROUGHED ME UP, BUT...

THIS TIME, IT WAS DIFFER-ENT...

...

YOU TWO REALLY CAN'T GET ALONG, HUH...

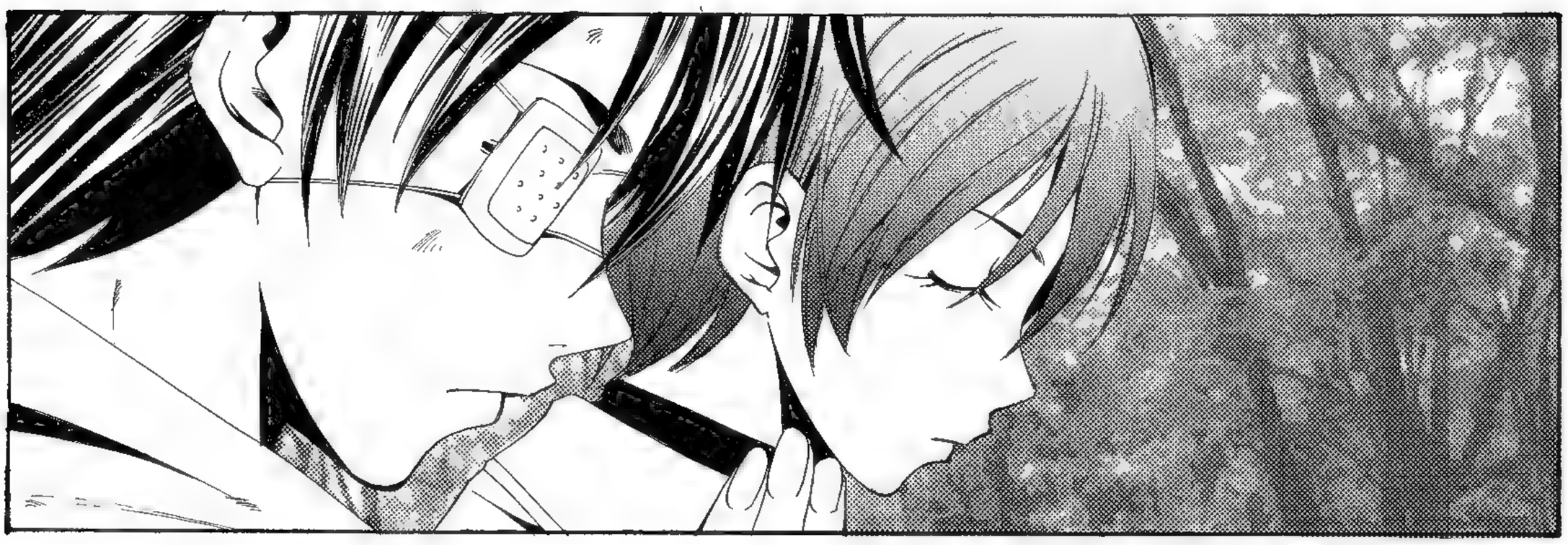
HUH ?

UH... NOTHING... C'MON! LET'S HURRY TO THE SHRINE!

UH... OKAY ...

NOTHING COULD'VE BEEN WORTH GETTING INTO A FIGHT LIKE THAT...

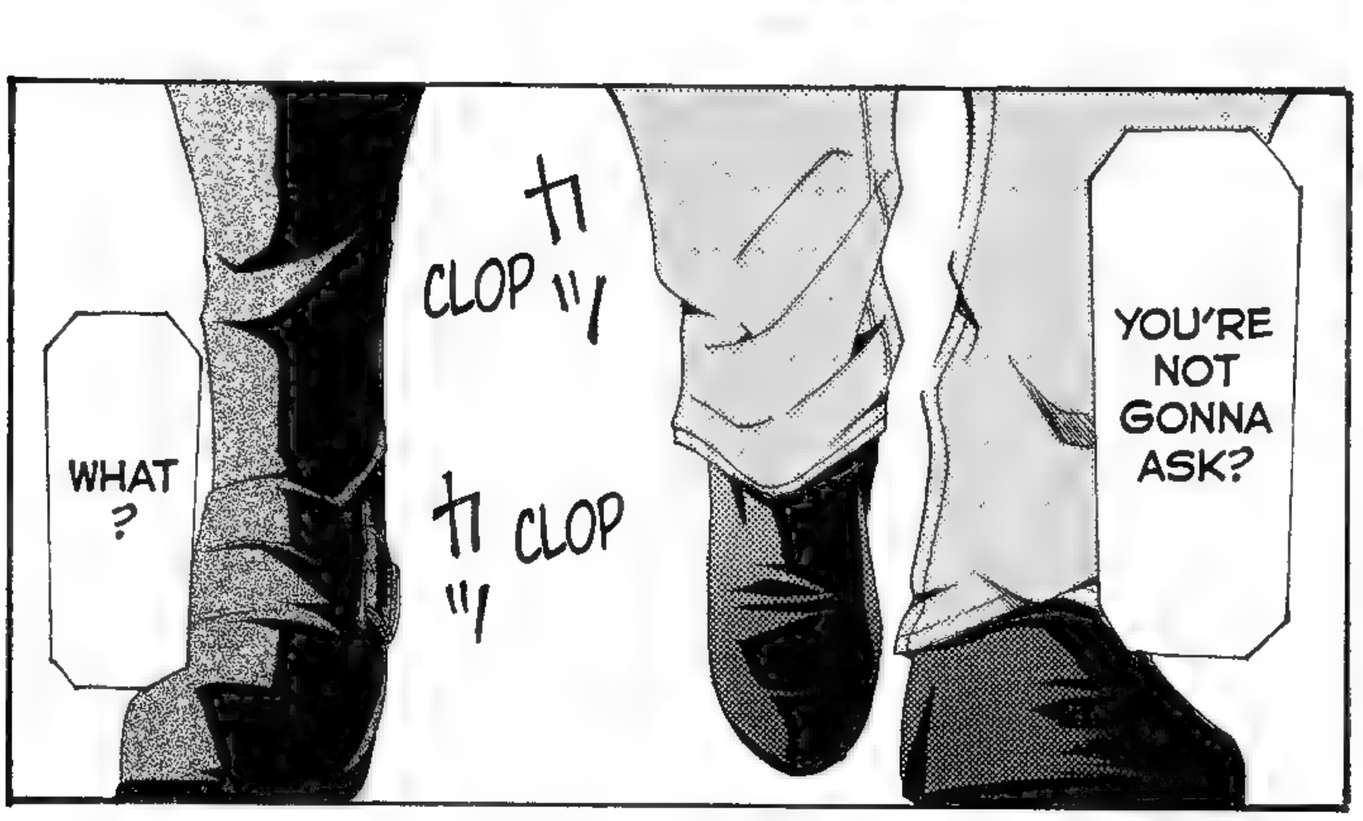
EXCUSE ME, DON'T PUSH!
PLEASE DON'T PUSH!!

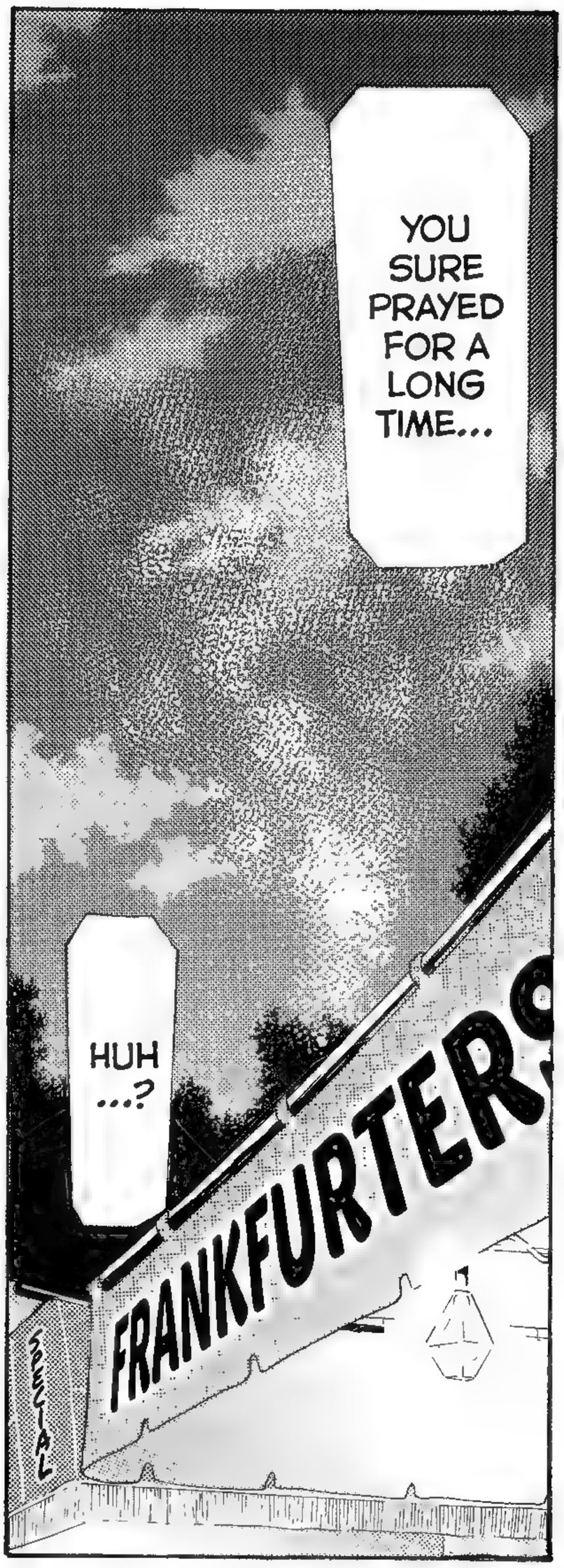


GLANCE

OH YEAH ?
W... WELL... IT WAS IMPORT-ANT, SO ...

UH ...
...


WHAT ?
CLOP
CLOP
YOU'RE NOT GONNA ASK?


YOU SURE PRAYED FOR A LONG TIME...
HUH ...?
FRANKFURTER
SPECIAL

I WON'T ASK.

YEAH ...

... WHAT IT WAS THAT I PRAYED FOR...?

OH...

...

YEAH ...

OH ...

UH... ANYWAY, SHOULD WE GO SOME-WHERE TO EAT?!

I'M STARV-ING, ASA-HINA!!

HEY ...

YEAHHH!

YEAHHH!

BANANA

バナナクレ

特製

NO, I'M GOOD. I ATE EARLIER.

I SHOULD ...

...ABORT IT, RIGHT?

HUH ...?

THAT'S ...

...WHAT ARIMA SAID, TOO.

YOU TOLD HIM?!

Y...

HUH ...?

HE SAID ...

...HE WAS REALLY LOOKING FOR-WARD...

OF COURSE, HE DIDN'T SAY IT LIKE THAT, BUT...

...I FIGURED THAT'S WHAT HE MEANT.

...TO GOING UP AGAINST ME IN UNI-VERSITY.

SO... I TOLD HIM THE TRUTH.

HE SEEMED REALLY EARNEST.

...

THAT YOU WERE PREG-NANT ...

...AND THAT I WASN'T SURE ABOUT UNIVERSITY UNTIL WE FIGURED OUT WHAT TO DO.

THEN HE SAID HE WOULDN'T HESITATE TO ABORT, IF IT WERE HIM...

...THAT THE MOST IMPORT-ANT THING TO HIM IS TRACK...

...AND THAT IT WOULDN'T MATTER WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU.

...

SO...

...I PUNCHED HIM!!

HUH?

...

YA-MATO-KUN ...

I WASN'T GONNA LET HIM GET AWAY WITH IT!!

IT PISSES ME OFF THAT HE'D SAY SOME-THING LIKE THAT!!

HEY ...

HM ...?

...TO ME...

TRACK MIGHT BE THE MOST IMPORTANT THING TO HIM, BUT...

I'D LIKE TO KNOW WHAT YOU PRAYED FOR, AFTER ALL...

HUH ...?

...

WELL ...

IS THAT OKAY ...?

UH, YEAH ...

IT'S FINE ...

HIROSHIMA-STYLE
OKONOMIYAKI

...YOU'D GIVE BIRTH TO A HEALTHY CHILD.

I PRAYED THAT...

HUH ...?

WHAT? ARE YOU SERIOUS ?!

WHY WOULD YOU- ?!

...FOR THAT TO HAPPEN.

AND THAT I'D GIVE ANYTHING ...

I PRAYED THAT...

...YOU'D GIVE BIRTH TO A HEALTHY CHILD.

HUH...?

WHAT? ARE YOU SERIOUS ?!

WHY WOULD YOU-?!

AND THAT I'D GIVE ANYTHING ...

...FOR THAT TO HAPPEN.

# #159 THE SURPRISE

I DON'T REGRET IT...!

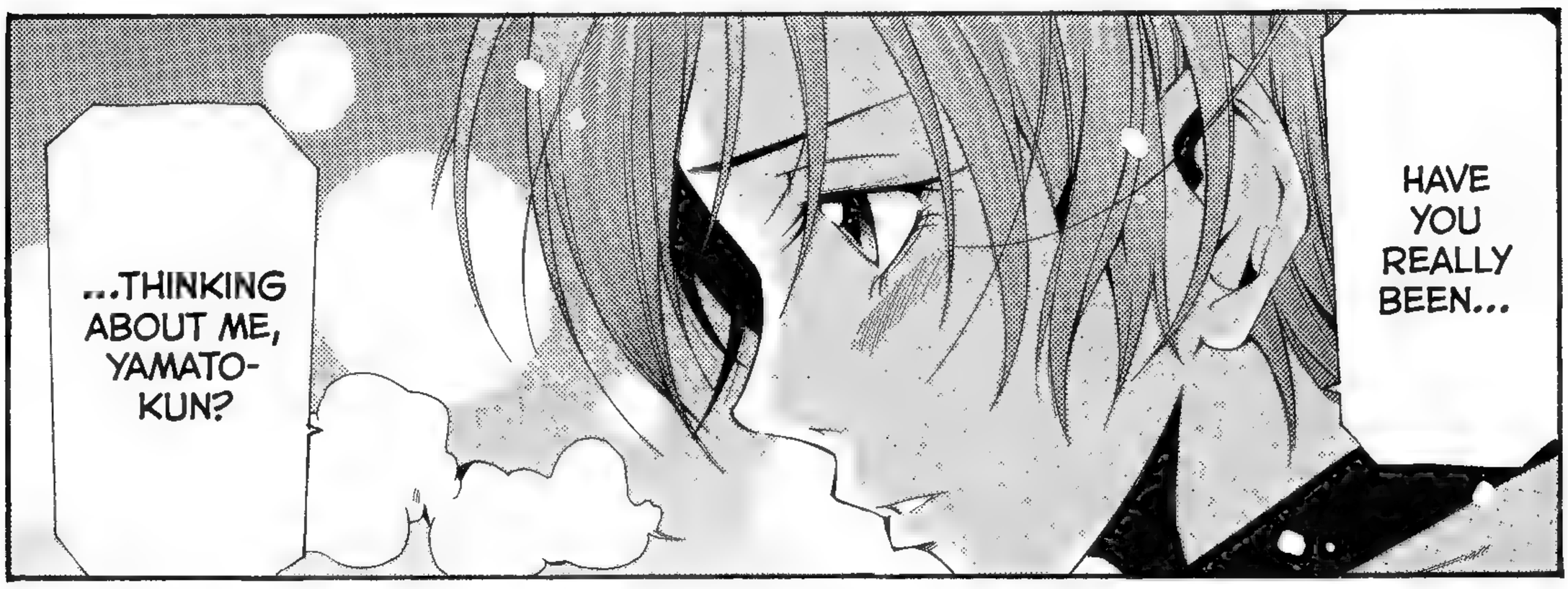
TMP

...I GAVE IT A LOT OF THOUGHT BEFORE DECIDING!!

I MEAN...

TMP

HUH ...?
WHY WOULD YOU SAY THAT...?


...THINKING ABOUT ME, YAMATO-KUN?
HAVE YOU REALLY BEEN...

...

I HAVE ...

I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT YOUR FUTURE...

...HOW SERIOUSLY YOU'VE BEEN TAKING TRACK...

...AND HOW YOU WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO DO IT IF YOU HAD THE BABY...

...AND HOW HARD IT MIGHT BE.

AFTER I HEARD YOU WERE PREG-NANT.

THEN ...

BUT IN THE END, I STILL DON'T KNOW!

...I HAVEN'T STOPPED THINKING ABOUT IT, EVER.

HUH ...?

...

I STILL HAVE NO IDEA.

NO MATTER HOW MUCH I THINK ABOUT IT...

...AND IF IT'S NOT, THEN WHAT WE SHOULD DO.

I DON'T KNOW WHETHER THAT'S REALLY A GOOD REASON TO ABORT...

THEN HOW DID YOU COME TO THE DECISION THAT YOU WANT THE BABY?

I KNOW THIS IS INCONSID-ERATE OF ME, BUT...

...I DISRE-GARDED ALL OF THAT AND SIMPLY THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT I WANTED...

THEN ...

...I REALIZED THAT ALL I WANTED...

...WAS FOR YOU TO HAVE THE BABY.

MAYBE THE GUY CHEATED ON HER!

CHATTER

CHATTER

WELL, WELL! AN EARLY NEW YEAR'S FIGHT?

THEN... YOU JUST DECIDED THAT OUT OF SELFISH-NESS!!

BUT FOR THAT TO HAPPEN...

...I PRAYED THAT I'D DO ANYTHING.

...

YEAH, I KNOW. I'M BEING SELFISH!!

S...
SO...

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING YOU'D DO?

I KNOW SENPAI AND THE SCHOOL AREN'T GONNA LIKE IT, BUT...

...I PLAN TO QUIT UNIVER-SITY AND GET A JOB.

EVEN IF IT'S TOUGH AT THE BEGINNING, I'M THINKING I'LL RENT A HOUSE IN THE SUBURBS AND COMMUTE TO WORK FROM THERE.

WHAT'S "ANY-THING"?

YES, I CAN!!

YOU CAN'T DO THAT!!

...EVEN IF I CAN'T, I WILL!!

ANYWAY ...

HUH?

...WHEN I HEARD THAT YOU WERE PREGNANT...

I MEAN ...

...I FELT HAPPY.

CHATTER

CHATTER

WHOOSH

HUH ...?

WHAT THE HECK?

YOU KEEP PUTTING YOURSELF FIRST...

LET'S HAVE THE BABY.

OKAY, THEN ...

H...
HEY!

WHAT'S WRONG ?!

?!

STUMBLE

HUHHH?!

YOU KNOW... YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID YOU WANTED THE BABY.

WELL, YEAH, BUT...

...I THOUGHT YOU'D OBJECT MORE.

IT'S NOTH-ING ...

I WAS JUST SURPRISED TO HEAR YOU AGREE SO QUICKLY.

I PUT ASIDE ALL THOUGHTS ABOUT YOUR FUTURE, OR ALL THE EXPEC-TATIONS PLACED ON YOU...

...OR HOW HARD IT'S GONNA BE ON YOU DOWN THE ROAD, YAMATO-KUN...

...AND I JUST THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT I WANTED...

I THOUGHT ABOUT IT, TOO.

HUH ?

...I JUST WANT TO HAVE THE BABY, TOO.

AND I REALIZED THAT...

B...BUT WHAT ABOUT TRACK...?

ASA-HINA...

I TOLD YOU, DIDN'T I?

I ONLY THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT I WANTED.

UH... OKAY.

ARE YOU GONNA SIT THERE FOREVER? C'MON, GET UP!

NOW THAT WE'VE DECIDED TO HAVE THE BABY...

...THE HARD PART IS YET TO COME!

GET IT TOGETH-ER, WILL YA?

HOW WILL YOU HANDLE OUR FUTURE LIKE THIS?

MY BAD ...

...

DASH

HUH? WHERE ARE WE GOING ...?

ALL RIGHT, THEN! LET'S GO!!

...WE SHOULD PRAY TOGETHER FOR A SAFE BIRTH, RIGHT?

FOR NOW ...

YEAH ...

SOUNDS GOOD.

# SUZUKA

GACHUNK
GACHUNK
GACHUNK
GACHUNK

FOR NOW, I'LL TELL MY PARENTS AND AYANO-SAN...

UNTIL THEN, YOU WAIT AT HOME.

NO, THAT'S NOT RIGHT.

WE DECIDED WE WERE GONNA DO THIS TOGETHER.

NO...

I HAVE TO GO, TOO!

FWAAAH

# 涼風 SUZUKA

#160 **THE PARENTS**

MIHO-CHAN!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

TMP-ッ

TMP

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

IS YAMATO-KUN AROUND?

MEOW

OH! SUZU-KA...

UH... HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU, TOO!!

...SO I THINK YOU'RE BETTER OFF NOT GOING IN.

THEY'RE REALLY ANGRY AT HIM...

YEAH, HE IS, BUT...

...HIS MOM AND DAD ARE HERE, SO...

HUH?

OH...

BOOM

YOU BE QUIET, AYANO-SAN!

BAM

BAM

O...ONII-SAN, DON'T BE SO ROUGH!

WHEENE

YOU IDIOT!

ENOUGH! LEAVE HIM BE... I'M GETTING A HEAD-ACHE.

SAY SOME-THING, SIS!

MIHO... SORRY, BUT CAN YOU PLEASE STAY OUTSIDE FOR A BIT?

RATTLE ガラ

MOM ...

YOU'RE SO PA-THETIC!!

...SUZUKA WANTS TO TALK TO YOU...

BUT ...

WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO, DEAR?!

WHAT ?!

HUH? ASA-HINA'S HERE?

UH... IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME...

CREAK

HAPPY NEW YEAR.

P...PLEASE FORGIVE OUR STUPID SON FOR CAUSING YOU SO MUCH TROUBLE...

YOU APOLO-GIZE, TOO, YAMATO!!

HUH ?!

HUD

UH... PLEASE STOP THAT!

THERE'S NOTHING YOU NEED TO APOLOGIZE TO ME FOR...

A... ANYWAY, WHY DON'T YOU HAVE A SEAT?

UH... MIHO, PLEASE STEP OUT.

OKAY ...

OKAY ...

...

SSSIP

...

JEEZ! AND HERE I WAS, THINKING THIS WAS JUST A NEW YEAR'S PHONE CALL!

AND JUST WHEN I WAS WONDERING HOW YOU'VE BEEN, YOU KNOCK UP SOMEONE'S DAUGHTER, OF ALL THINGS...

YOU JUST HAD TO INSIST ON GOING TO TOKYO!

POW

WHAT THE HECK WERE YOU THINK-ING?!

OUCH!!

UH...

HE'S HURT, SO PLEASE DON'T...

UH... I MEAN...

DEAR!

UM...

...

I'M TRULY SORRY ...

...FOR CAUSING YOU SO MUCH TROUBLE.

HUH ?

I'M SORRY...

...WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO ABOUT THE BABY?

MORE IMPOR-TANTLY ...

YOU SHOULDN'T APOLOGIZE, SUZUKA-CHAN!

*YOU'RE STILL GOING ON ABOUT THAT?! WE'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT A DOG OR CAT, Y'KNOW!!*

I TOLD YOU, DIDN'T I?

WE'RE GONNA RAISE THE BABY!

THEN WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST WE DO?!

YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW TIRING IT IS TO RAISE A CHILD!!

WH...WHAT?

...

ANYWAY, YOU HAVE TO THINK ABOUT WHAT SUZUKA-CHAN-

WE DE-CIDED THIS TOGETH-ER.

...HOW DIFFI-CULT IT IS TO RAISE A CHILD...

YOU'RE RIGHT THAT WE STILL DON'T REALLY KNOW ...

...BUT WE'VE DECIDED TO DO OUR BEST NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS.

...LET US HAVE THIS BABY!

SO PLEASE ...

ASAHINA ...

...!

DEAR ...

IT'S FINE, DEAR ...

THEY DECIDED THIS TOGETHER.

J... JUST HOLD ON!

SETTLE DOWN BEFORE ...

HE'S STUBBORN, LIKE YOU. IF HIS MIND'S SET ON IT, HE WON'T LISTEN.

WASN'T HE LIKE THAT WHEN HE SAID HE WAS GOING TO TOKYO?

STOP IT, BOTH OF YOU!!

th" CLATTER A

OW! OW! OW! OW!!

th" A CLATTER

I WASN'T TALKING TO YOU!!

WE'RE GOING TO TALK TO THEM!

WELL... I'M NOT TOO WORRIED, BUT...

...I DON'T KNOW WHAT HER PARENTS WILL THINK...

N...NOW, DEAR, WE DON'T HAVE TO RUSH.

THE TWO OF US WILL GO GREET THEM, LATER.

WELL, TAKE YAMATO WITH YOU AND GO ON, THEN!

NO, NOT YET ...

SO, HAVE YOU SPOKEN WITH YOUR PARENTS YET?

WELL... I SUP-POSE ...

...

OF COURSE WE DO!!

THEN LET'S GO.

...

YEAH. HE'S OFF WORK ON NEW YEAR'S ...

ASAHINA, IS YOUR DAD HOME TODAY?

OKAY ...

...

HUH? AYANO-SAN, YOU ELOPED?

S... SIS!!

MAKE SURE YOU BOTH GET THEIR BLESS-INGS.

OTHER-WISE, YOU'LL HAVE TO ELOPE LIKE AYANO!

I GOT THEIR BLESSING AFTER-WARDS!!

AYANO-SAN, CARE-FUL ...

ASAHIYU BATH

IF YOU'RE GONNA GO, THEN HURRY UP AND GET READY!!

AND TELL MIHO SHE CAN COME BACK INTO THE HOUSE!!

OH... ONII-CHAN!

ガラッ
RATTLE

SORRY, MIHO-CHAN.

YOUR MOM SAID YOU CAN COME IN NOW.

...

WHAT IS IT?

I'M ROOTING FOR YOU TWO!

YOU CAN DO IT!!

MIHO-CHAN...

HUH ...?

OH...AND I GUESS THIS MEANS OUR MARRIAGE DEAL IS OFF, AFTER ALL!

TOO BAAAD !!

UH... OKAY ...

THAT'S ALL! SEE YA!!

DASH

WHA ...?

SHE SURE LIKES YOU A LOT, HUH!

HA HA ...

I SEE.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN? YOU JUST GOT RE-JECTED!

I...I GUESS SO. IT'S TOUGH BEING SO POPULAR!!

HEY ...

LET'S HURRY UP!

OKAY ...!

ゴクリ
GULP

HUH?! WH... WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT ...?

I... I'M FINE!

YOU SURE ...?

YOU DON'T ... LOOK SO GOOD.

SO HE IS...

...

ANYWAY, IS YOUR FATHER REALLY HOME?

YEAH, HE IS.

...AND DATE EACH OTHER AS RESPONSIBLE STUDENTS.

MAKE SURE YOU STUDY HARD AT UNIVERSITY...

YEAH.

...

HE'S GONNA BE SO MAD...

HE...

...

"DRIP"

"DRIP"

YOU JUST GOT HIM TO FORGIVE YOU... HE MIGHT ACTUALLY HIT YOU THIS TIME, YAMATO-KUN.

HUH?

I HAVE TO TELL HIM!!

BUT...

GRIT

YEAH...

DING DONG

ピーポー

SUZUKA

WHAT IS IT THAT YOU NEED TO TALK TO US ABOUT?

...

UM, WELL ...

UM...

...AND I'M TRULY SORRY, BUT...

I KNOW I HAD JUST PROMISED YOU THAT WE'D DATE RESPON-SIBLY...

I'D LIKE TO ASK...

...FOR YOUR DAUGHTER'S HAND IN MARRIAGE!!

# 涼風 SUZUKA

#161 **FAMILY**

HUH? WHAT'S GOING ON? WHY NOW ?

OH! UM...

YES, TELL US.

WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS, SUZUKA?

WHAT ...?!

HOLD ON! ARE YOU SERIOUS ?!

THIS ISN'T SOME SORT OF MISTAKE ?!

THE TRUTH IS...

...I'M PREG- NANT.

IT'S BEEN THREE MONTHS ...

WHEN YOU SAID THERE WAS SOME-THING YOU NEEDED TO TALK TO US ABOUT...

...

...I HAD A FEELING IT WAS GOING TO BE THIS.

B... BUT, HONEY!

CALM DOWN, SUZUE.

SO...?

CLINK

*THEY WERE AGAINST IT, BUT I'M GONNA GET A JOB INSTEAD OF GOING TO UNIVERSITY!!*

*I'M PREPARED TO DO THAT!!*

WHAT DO YOUR PARENTS THINK?

SURELY YOU MUST'VE DECIDED ON YOUR UNIVERSITY ALREADY.

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT WITH THIS, SUZUKA?

YEAH ...

I KNOW I'M BEING SELFISH BUT...

...I WANT TO HAVE THE BABY.

IF YOU'RE THAT SET ON HAVING THE BABY, THEN I WON'T STOP YOU.

ADJUST

FINE ...

SUZUKA...

REALLY ?!

HUH ...?!

YOU WILL END YOUR RELATION-SHIP WITH YAMATO-KUN.

HOW-EVER ...

HUH ...?

...

HEY ...

H... HON-EY!

WE WILL RAISE THE CHILD HERE...

WHY WOULD YOU SAY THAT?!

THAT'S TERRIBLE, DAD!!

I...I SWEAR I'M GONNA GET WORK, AND I PROMISE I WON'T BURDEN-

IT'S NOT UP FOR DISCUS-SION.

SLAM

UH ...!!

CLATTER

HA!

YA-MATO-KUN ...

SHE CAN HAVE THE BABY, BUT HAS TO BREAK UP WITH ME?

WHAT THE HECK...?

THEN...

HUH ?

WAIT, YA-MATO-KUN!

I'M GONNA TRY TALKING TO HIM AGAIN!!

THERE'S NO POINT TO IT!!

UH, SOR-RY !!

EEK !

WHAT THE HECK ?!

WHO IS IT?

KNOCK

KNOCK

...

IT'S AKI-TSUKI!

SORRY TO BOTHER YOU!

ガチャ KER-CHAK

COME IN.

PLEASE !!

I'LL SERI-OUSLY DO EVERYTHING I CAN, SO PLEASE LET ME MARRY HER!!

DO YOU STILL NEED SOME-THING?

RUSTLE

CURRENT PROFIT

(PER 1000 YEN)

MONTHLY

CURRENT MONTH

PREVIOUS PERIOD

CREAK

UH...

THUD

YOU CAN HAVE A SEAT.

UH... OKAY.

TAKE A LOOK.

HUH?

AN ALBUM ?

FLAP

WHAT IS THIS?

Hospital Discharge, Suzuka at 0 years

...SUZUKA WAS BORN.

DURING THAT TIME ...

I HAD A JOB THAT I BADLY WANTED TO DO.

I DISREGARDED THE OBJECTIONS OF THOSE AROUND ME, AND BUILT THE COMPANY I HAVE TODAY.

HUH ?

...

入園おめでとう

Entrance Ceremony,
Suzuka at 3 years

SIGN: CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR FIRST DAY

SHE SEEMS SO HAPPY IN ALL THESE PHOTOS.

...

...AND IT WAS ONE DEBT AND LOSS AFTER ANOTHER.

THE COMPANY NEVER TOOK OFF THE WAY I THOUGHT IT WOULD...

LOOKING BACK, I MIGHT'VE BEEN NAIVE IN MY EXPECTA-TIONS...

HUH?

YOU'D NEVER THINK IT FROM LOOKING AT THESE PHOTOS!

HUH ...?!

...I'VE BEEN ABLE TO DO MY BEST 'TIL THIS VERY DAY...

THAT'S EXACTLY WHY...

*SUZUNE AND SUZUKA ARE THE REASON I LIVE.*

*FOR THEM, I WILL ENDURE ANY HARD-SHIP.*

*THAT'S THE ESSENCE OF PARENT-HOOD.*

...

I'M SURE YOUR PARENTS FEEL THE SAME WAY.

THAT'S ENOUGH, DEAR! FORGIVE THE BOY!

HEY, YAMATO! YOU CAUGHT A BIG ONE!!

I GUESS SO!!

DON'T GO WALKING AT NIGHT TIME, OKAY?! IT'S DANGEROUS!!

MAKE SURE TO LISTEN TO AYANO-SAN WHILE YOU'RE IN TOKYO, OKAY?!

AM I WRONG ...?

GIVE US A CALL WHENEVER SOMETHING HAPPENS, OKAY?!

NO, I'M SURE THEY FELT ... THE SAME WAY.

...

...AND HOW MUCH THEY LOOKED FORWARD TO YOUR FUTURE?

YOU SAID EARLIER THAT YOU AREN'T GOING TO UNIVER-SITY...

BUT HAVE YOU EVER GIVEN ANY THOUGHT...

...TO WHAT YOUR PARENTS ENDURED TO RAISE YOU...

NITTSU

...THOSE WHO DON'T UNDERSTAND THAT SACRIFICE ARE UNFIT FOR PARENTHOOD...

A CHILD DOESN'T NEED TO REPAY A PARENT'S KINDNESS, BUT...

...TO SHOW THAT SAME LOVE TO THEIR OWN CHILD.

...BECAUSE THEY WON'T BE ABLE...

IT'S POINTLESS TO EXPECT THAT YOU'D UNDERSTAND.

CREAK

AH, WELL ...

YOU'RE STILL 18.

GRIP

I'M SORRY ...

I'VE BEEN ...

SELFISH ...

ABOUT QUIT-TING UNIVER-SITY...

ABOUT MAKING THEM COME TO TOKYO...

WHEN I GO HOME, I'LL APOLOGIZE TO THEM...

LET ME BE CLEAR.

HUH ?

...

...GIVING YOU ANY FINANCIAL SUPPORT, OKAY?

I DON'T PLAN ON...

...!

YES, SIR ...!

I'LL DO MY BEST ...!!

SUZUKA

STUDENT GUIDANCE OFFICE

WELL, WELL ...

I'LL APOLOGIZE TO THE UNIVERSITY ON YOUR BEHALF...

I UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION.

I DON'T THINK YOU'LL BE SUSPENDED OVER THIS, THOUGH.

FOR NOW, I'LL BE BRINGING THIS MATTER TO THE STAFF MEETING...

...

SORRY ...

YES, SIR ...

IT'S FINE. RETURN TO YOUR CLASSES.

# #162 FRIENDS

YEAH ...

HE WASN'T AS ANGRY AS I THOUGHT ...

TMP

TMP

HUH ?

UH, NOTH-ING ...

WHAT ARE YOU THINK-ING?

YEAH. IT'S A REG-ULAR CHECK-UP...

OH, BY THE WAY, YOU'RE GOING TO THE HOSPITAL TODAY IN THE AF-TERNOON, RIGHT?

3—A

SEE YA.

LAT-ER ...

RATTLE

RATTLE

SORRY I CAN'T GO WITH YOU. TAKE CARE, OKAY?

THANKS. I'LL BE FINE.

...

I KNOW! YOU GUYS GOT CAUGHT FOR GOING ON THAT TRIP TOGETHER, RIGHT?

THAT WAS IT, WASN'T IT?

QUITE THE DELIN-QUENT, BEING CALLED SO EARLY IN THE NEW TERM!

YO, YA-MATO!

NO, IT WASN'T THAT.

...

HEY, C'MON! TELL ME! I WON'T TELL ANYONE.

...

HUH? THEN WHAT WAS IT?

DID SOME-THING ELSE HAPPEN?

...WE'VE DECIDED TO GET MARRIED INSTEAD OF GOING TO UNIVERSITY.

ASAHINA'S PREGNANT, SO...

WHAT?!

C'MON!!

I'M NOT JOK-ING!

QUIT JOKING AROUND AND TELL ME WHAT'S REALLY GOING ON, YAMATO.

HUH? ARE YOU STUPID?

SORRY FOR BEING "STUPID."

...

...

SERI-
OUSLY
...?

HOLD ON, MAN! YOU'RE ALWAYS SO FLIPPANT LIKE THIS...

ANYWAY, I HAVE SOME-THING TO TAKE CARE OF, SO...

HEY, YAMATO! ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?!

YOU REALLY SHOULD THINK THIS OVER A BIT MORE!!

I HAVE THOUGHT IT OVER!

STAND!!!

HM?

SEMPAI ...

...

HUH ?

HATTORI... SORRY, BUT COULD YOU GIVE US SOME PRIVACY?

UH, SURE ...

...

LET'S GO TALK IN THE COURT-YARD...

YOU HAVE A MINUTE ...

...AKI-TSUKI?

I THOUGHT YOU WERE GONNA BEAT ME UP...

IF THAT WOULD SOLVE THINGS, I'D DO IT.

WHY ...

...DIDN'T YOU TELL ME WHEN WE MET EARLIER?

C'MON! PRAC-TICE IS START-ING!!

DASH

OH NO! WE'RE GONNA GET IN TROUBLE AGAIN!!

I'M SORRY.

WELL ...

WHAT YOU GUYS CHOOSE TO DO IN YOUR FUTURE ...

...IS ENTIRELY UP TO YOU.

AT THAT TIME, I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.

BOTH OF YOU GOT ADMITTED THROUGH RECOM-MENDATION, AND BY THROW-ING THAT AWAY...

...OUR UNIVER-SITY HAS LOST TWO PROMISING ATHLETES.

WE'VE ALSO LOST THE PROMISING ATHLETES WHO COULD'VE HAD A CHANCE AT GETTING ACCEPTED INSTEAD OF YOU.

HOW-EVER ...

...YOUR ACTIONS AFFECT THOSE AROUND YOU.

...THE GUYS WHO COMPETED IN THE TRYOUTS WITH YOU.

AMONG THEM...

...THE AOBA HIGH TRACK TEAM HAS LOST ALL CREDIBILITY.

AND FROM THIS INCIDENT ...

JOLT

IT'S UNLIKELY THAT ANY UNIVERSITY WILL PICK A TRACK ATHLETE...

...FROM THIS HIGH SCHOOL AGAIN.

THOSE ARE THE CONSE-QUENCES ...

...OF YOUR ACTIONS.

I SEE ...

WHEN I DE-CIDED ...

...TO REJECT MY OFFER OF ACCEP-TANCE ...

...I KNEW SOME-THING LIKE THIS WOULD HAPPEN.

HH!

IF YOU DID, THEN THAT'S FINE.

DO WHAT YOU WANT.

...REALLY LET ME DOWN.

YOU...

T.M.P

T.M.P

...

...GO APOLOGIZE ...

I SHOULD ...

SORRY ...

HM?

TMP

ASAHINA... I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO THE HOSPITAL ...

YEAH. IT ENDED EARLY, SO I CAME BACK.

OH ...

'CAUSE WE REALLY SHOULD ...

...APOL-OGIZE TO EVERYONE ON THE TRACK TEAM.

YEAH ...

...

HUH? IT'S AKI-TSUKI-SEMPAI.

HM?

OH... SUZUKA! WHERE DID YOU GO?!

UH ... NO ...

*HMPH!* ARE YOU TWO SKIPPING PRACTICE SO YOU CAN FOOL AROUND TOGETHER?

UH ... THEY AL-READY HAVE.

...

AT THIS RATE, THEY MIGHT WITHDRAW THOSE REC-OMMENDA-TIONS TOO, HUH?

...

HUH ?

I'M SORRY.

...

SO...WE REJECTED OUR OFFER OF ACCEPTANCE TODAY, TOO.

YEAH ...

MURMUR

ARE YOU REALLY PREGNANT ...?

H...HEY, ARE YOU SERIOUS ...?

YOU REJECTED IT...?

Y...

THERE'S NO WAY IN HELL THEY'RE GONNA GET RECOM-MENDED INTO SEIJO U NOW!!

THAT'S GREAT FOR YOU GUYS, BUT WHAT IS EVERYONE ELSE ON THE TEAM GONNA DO?!

!!

GRAB

WHAT THE HELL, MAN?! DO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS ?!

...

...

REALLY !!

WE'RE SORRY.

...

HUH ?

THAT'S ENOUGH, SEMPAI ...

THAT'S ENOUGH !!

STOP, KOBA-YAKAWA !!

SCREW THAT!! YOUR APOL-OGIES MEAN NOTH-ING!!

YOU GUYS AREN'T TAKING ANY RESPONSI-BILITY!

SO WE KNOW HOW HARD IT WAS FOR THEM TO REJECT THE UNIVERSITY'S OFFER OF ACCEPTANCE.

WE KNOW HOW HARD AKITSUKI AND ASAHINA-SEMPAI PRACTICED ON THE TRACK TEAM...

TSU-YOSHI ...

HUH ?

WE AREN'T DUMB LIKE YOU, AKITSUKI-SEMPAI!!

BESIDES, IF WE REALLY WANT TO GO TO SEIJO U, WE CAN STILL GET IN THROUGH GENERAL ADMISSION!

IT'S OKAY, SEMPAI! DON'T WORRY ABOUT US!

...

SEIJO U ISN'T THE ONLY UNI-VERSITY, ANYWAY!

WE'RE ROOTING FOR YOU!

SO, ASAHINA-SEMPAI, DO YOUR BEST TO HAVE A HEALTHY BABY!!

NO, YOU'RE NOT!

YOU'RE A GOOD SEMPAI, TOO!

TCH... SO I'M THE BAD GUY? WELL, NOT THAT I CARE.

THANK YOU...

ALL OF YOU...

IF YOU WANT TO SUPPORT THEM, YOU COULD'VE JUST TOLD THEM THAT.

I WAS PLANNING ON BEATING HIM UP IF HE DIDN'T GO APOLOGIZE TO HIS TEAM-MATES.

TOO BAD.

RUSTLE

...

UH... SEM-PAI!

HMPH. I'LL SEND THEM A WEDDING GIFT EVEN-TUALLY.

LET'S GO, MIYA-MOTO.

WELL ...

GIVE IT YOUR BEST, YOU TWO.

# SUZUKA 涼風

## #163 THE JOB SEARCH

RELAX IN ONE OF OUR 52 SEATS!

WOS BURGER

YEAH ...

HUH? AT ASAHIYU?

THAT'D HELP, BUT...

...I'D FEEL BAD.

...AYANO-SAN SAID THAT WE CAN LIVE AT ASAHIYU FOR A WHILE UNTIL THINGS SETTLE DOWN.

SINCE IT'LL PROBABLY BE EXPENSIVE FOR THE TWO OF US TO RENT A NEW HOUSE AND MOVE IN...

R... REALLY? WELL, THAT'S GOOD...

...SO IT'D HELP HER TOO IF YOU MOVED IN.

SHE SAID SHE HASN'T FOUND A TENANT FOR YOUR ROOM, ANYWAY...

CLATTER

BUT I KINDA FEEL SILLY ...

MOVING OUT AND THEN COMING BACK.

HUH?

THE REAL ISSUE, THOUGH, IS ME GETTING A JOB...

WELL, THAT WAS MY FAULT, SO...

...THEY SAID THAT THE DEADLINES HAVE ALREADY PASSED.

I ASKED THE SCHOOL WHETHER THERE ARE ANY JOB OPENINGS, BUT...

YEAH, MAKES SENSE...

...

...

AS LONG AS I DON'T EXPECT TOO MUCH, I'M SURE THERE'S SOME-THING OUT THERE.

BUT I CAN'T BE SURE ...

THEN, WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO?

LET'S SEE ...

HMM. FOR NOW, I'M GONNA CHECK OUT THE CLASSIFIED ADS.

HUH? WHY?

I MEAN, YOU WANT TO CONTINUE IT, DON'T YOU?

IF POS-SIBLE ...

...I HOPE IT'S A COMPANY THAT HAS A TRACK TEAM.

WELL, IT'D BE NICE, BUT...

...THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO WORRY ABOUT THAT.

I MEAN, WE'RE GONNA HAVE A BABY.

ANYWAY, I'LL LET YOU KNOW WHEN I FIND SOME-THING.

DON'T WORRY. JUST HANG ON, ASAHINA!

YEAH ...

OKAY. GOT IT.

RELAX IN ONE OF OUR 52 SEATS

CHATTER
CHATTER
2F INTER-VIEW HALL
THERE ARE QUITE A FEW PEOPLE HERE...
YIKES ...
!!
NEXT PERSON, PLEASE.
KER-CHAK
MAN, I HOPE I'LL BE OKAY ...
BADUMP
BADUMP
NO POINT THINKING ABOUT IT!!
Y... YES!!
I'M REALLY NER-VOUS ...
I GOTTA GO FOR BROKE!!

COME IN... HAVE A SEAT.

KER-CHAK

H... HELLO!!

YES, SIR!!

HA HA! QUITE THE ENERGY YOU HAVE THERE.

YOU DON'T NEED TO BE SO TENSE. RELAX.

YES, SIR!!

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO APPLY TO OUR COMPANY?

FLAP

SO... LET'S SEE... AKITSUKI-KUN...

UH... AKITSUKI-KUN, YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT US WHEN YOU SAY "THEY," RIGHT?

OH YEAH!! SORRY, MY MIS-TAKE!!

UH... THEY HAVE A VERY GOOD COR-PORATE CULTURE, AND THE DESCRIP-TION THEY—

YES, SIR!!

WILL DO, SIR!!

1 2
7 8 9
15 16 17
22 23 24

I'VE GONE TO SEVEN DIFFERENT COMPANIES...

...AND NOT ONE OF THEM HIRED ME...

...

SIGH

FWUMP

IT REALLY IS HARD TO GET A JOB AROUND THIS TIME, AFTER ALL.

I CAN'T FACE ASAHINA LIKE THIS...

...AFTER I TOLD HER TO TRUST ME.

...

CORPORATIONS YUGAWA CLOTH

I'M GONNA HAVE A BABY!!

NO! NO! NO!!

BOLT

FLAP

FLAP

I CAN'T LEAVE THINGS LIKE THIS!!

I GOTTA GET WORK AT ALL COSTS!!

RRRING

RRRING

HM ...?

JOB SEARCH INFORMATION

AT ANY RATE, I GOTTA GET HIRED SOME-HOW ...

JOB SEARCH INFORMATION

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT KINDA JOB I GET!!

IT CAN BE FAR AWAY FROM MY PLACE!!

INCOMING
SUZUKA ASAHINA

IT'S ASA-HINA ...

...

...WITH THE JOB SEARCH?

HOW ARE THINGS GOING ...

Y... YES ...

H... HELLO ...?

WELL ... UM ...

UH...

UH... YA-MATO-KUN?

YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE TO TELL ME!

SPLURT

NONE OF THEM PANNED OUT, HUH?

HUH?

HEY, WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A BREAK FROM THAT AND COME MEET ME?

UH, B... BUT... IT'LL BE FINE!!

HUH? YOU CAN'T TELL ME OVER THE PHONE?

I'LL BE AT THE RESTAU-RANT WE ALWAYS GO TO.

I HAVE SOME-THING IMPORT-ANT TO TELL YOU.

I'M GONNA TAKE CARE OF THIS!!

EVEN IF IT'S A PART-TIME JOB...

WH... WHAT COULD BE SO IMPORT-ANT...?

UH... SURE ... OKAY, THEN ...

OB SEARCH FORMATION

I WANT TO TELL YOU IN PERSON, SO COME QUICKLY!

RESTAURANT

SHE'S NOT GONNA BREAK UP WITH ME, IS SHE...?

OH, YAMATO-KUN! OVER HERE!

CREAK

WELCOME!

ASA-HINA ...

WHAT DID YOU NEED TO TALK TO ME ABOUT?

HUH ...?

LONG TIME NO SEE!

S... SASAOKA-SAN!!

I TOLD YOU I WAS GETTING MARRIED THIS SPRING, DIDN'T I?

SO I'M HERE TO GET READY FOR THE WEDDING.

DIDN'T YOU GET TRANS-FERRED TO THE STATES ...?

SO, WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE TODAY?

ANYWAY, I HEARD THE NEWS FROM SUZUKA-CHAN.

WELL, I MEAN... CONGRAT-ULATIONS!! WHAT GREAT NEWS!!

UH... THANK YOU...

HUH ...?

I GOT A CALL FROM SUZUKA-CHAN...

...SO WE DECIDED TO MEET UP AND TALK.

HUH ?

YOU'RE LOOKING FOR WORK, RIGHT?

IF SO, A COMPANY THAT WE DEAL WITH IS CURRENTLY HIRING, SO I CAN RECOMMEND YOU TO THEM.

OR HAVE YOU FOUND SOME-THING ELSE?

UH...NO! NONE OF THEM WORKED OUT...

THE COMPANY HAS A TRACK TEAM, TOO, WHICH SUZUKA-CHAN WANTED.

THEN, THAT'S GREAT.

HUH ...?

SO YOU REALLY WANTED TO CONTINUE, AFTER ALL!

A...A TRACK TEAM ?!

...AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, I FELT LIKE YOU WANTED TO KEEP UP WITH IT, TOO...

IT WOULD BE A TOTAL WASTE IF YOU GAVE UP ON TRACK NOW...

...SO I ASKED SASAOKA-SAN.

AND IF THAT'S THE CASE, I WANT TO DO WHATEVER I CAN TO MAKE THAT HAPPEN FOR YOU...

OH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT. THE COMPANY HAS BEEN INCREASING THEIR PROFITS SINCE LAST YEAR, SO THEY'RE APPARENTLY HIRING A LOT OF PEOPLE.

BUT... UM... ARE YOU SURE? IT WON'T BE AN INCONVE-NIENCE AT THIS LATE STAGE?

...

ASA-HINA ...

THINK OF TRACK AS AN AFTER-WORK ACTIVITY.

WHILE THEY HAVE A TRACK TEAM, YOU'LL NEED TO GET YOUR WORK DONE.

...

AND YOU'LL HAVE YOUR HANDS FULL LEARNING THE ROPES AS SOON AS YOU JOIN THE COMPANY, SO THERE WON'T BE MUCH TIME FOR TRACK...

TH... THAT'S NOT A PROB-LEM, BUT...

IS SOME-THING WRONG, YAMATO-KUN?

UH... NOTH-ING... I JUST ...

I JUST KINDA FEEL PATHETIC ...

I TOLD YOU TO LEAVE THINGS TO ME...

...AND IN THE END, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO FINDS ME A JOB...

THAT DOESN'T MATTER.

HUH ...?

I DON'T THINK THAT SHOULD BOTHER YOU.

THE IMPORT-ANT THING IS THAT, GOING FOR-WARD ...

...YOU DO YOUR BEST FOR SUZUKA-CHAN.

...YOUR FUTURE CHILD HAPPY.

AND THAT YOU MAKE...

IT'S GONNA BE TOUGH WORKING FOR THE BOTH OF US, YAMATO-KUN.

YEAH ...

ASA-HINA...

I'M GONNA WORK HARD ...

...FOR THE BOTH OF US.

OKAY...

WOW. SO ALL OF YOU ARE FINALLY GRADU-ATING!

2006 AOBA HIGH SCHOOL GRAD-UATION CERE-MONY

FACE THE NEW PATH BEFORE YOU, WHETHER IT'S POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION OR A NEW JOB, AND...

SUZUKA

SUZUKA

涼風

#164 **GRADUATION**

*NOTE: IN JAPAN, WHEN A MALE STUDENT GRADUATES FROM HIGH SCHOOL, A FEMALE ADMIRER MAY ASK HIM FOR A BUTTON ON HIS SCHOOL UNIFORM TO KEEP AS A MEMENTO.

THE FEMALE KOHAI EVEN TOOK THE BUTTONS FROM MY WRISTS!*

ANYWAY, CHECK THIS OUT!

I'M TELLING YOU, IT WAS HILARI-OUS!

I LOOKED OVER AND HASHIBA WAS CRY-ING, RUNNY NOSE AND EVERY-THING.

W... WELL, YOU CAN'T BLAME ME!!

SH... SHUT UP!!

THEY WERE ALL TAKEN BY GUYS!

WELL, ALL OF MY BUT-TONS WERE TAKEN!

HUH ...?

ANYWAY, YOUR BELLY HAS GOTTEN BIG, SUZUKA!

YEAH, I SAW.

HMM...

YEAH... IT'S ALREADY BEEN SIX MONTHS.

HEY, WHAT DOES IT FEEL LIKE TO BE PREGNANT?

DO YOU REALLY GET MORNING SICKNESS AND STUFF?

UH... YEAH.

IF YOU'RE SO CURIOUS, WHY DON'T YOU GET PREGNANT, TOO?

I CAN HELP YOU OUT WITH THAT!

HUH?!

WHAP!!

WHAP!!

YOU CREEPY PERV!!

OUCH! OW! I'M JOKING!!

WHEN I TALKED TO ARIMA-SEMPAI THE OTHER DAY, HE ASKED ME TO GIVE YOU A MESSAGE.

A MES-SAGE ?

UH... YEAH.

HEY, AKITSUKI... I HEARD YOU GOT HIRED BY A COMPANY THAT HAS A TRACK TEAM.

...HE'LL BEAT THE CRAP OUT OF YOU.

HE SAID THAT IF YOU DON'T COME TO THE OLYMPICS QUALIFYING MEET...

BUT, YOU KNOW, THESE DAYS, I'M ACTUALLY THE ONE WHO'S—

HEY, WAIT!!

O... OLYMPICS?! DON'T BE STUPID! THERE'S NO WAY I'M—

DON'T LOOK AT ME. I'M JUST THE MESSEN-GER.

TURN

HUH ?!

UH... HONO-KA-CHAN.

WAIT FOR ME!

OH, I THOUGHT YOU'D ALREADY LEFT SCHOOL FOR WORK.

I GOT WORK OFF 'CAUSE OF THE GRAD-UATION CEREMONY TODAY.

TH... THANKS. SO YOU SAW.

GRAB

OHHH! SAKURAI-SAN! I SAW YOU ON TV THE OTHER DAY!!

THOSE ACTORS REALLY PLAYED AROUND WITH YOU, HUH!!

HUH ...?

OH, YEAH. I HEARD ABOUT YOU AND AKITSUKI-KUN!

UH ...

CONGRAT-ULATIONS ...

...ON GETTING MARRIED!

HUH?

UH... THANKS ...

WE STILL HAVEN'T SUBMITTED OUR REG-ISTRATION, THOUGH.

HUH ...?

NEVER MIND THAT. HOW'S YOUR BOYFRIEND, SAKURAI?

S... SAKU-RAI...

L... LONG TIME NO...

YOU'RE REALLY LETTING ALL THE DIRTY JOKES FLY TODAY, AREN'T YOU?

...

THAT'S BEEN THE TREND IN THE ENTER-TAINMENT WORLD NOWADAYS, HASN'T IT?

YEAH, THAT'S WHAT YOU SAY, BUT COME NEXT YEAR, I BET YOU'RE GONNA TELL US YOU GOT MARRIED!

I'VE BEEN SO BUSY THAT I HAVEN'T REALLY HAD A CHANCE TO MEET HIM... BUT WE KEEP IN TOUCH BY PHONE AND EMAIL.

SHUT UP! DON'T TALK TO ME IF YOUR LIFE IS AWE-SOME!

HM? WHAT'S THE MATTER, KOBAYA-KAWA?

WHOOSH

HH

P

P

BUT, YOU KNOW ...

IT'S A LITTLE SAD.

HUH? WHAT IS?

LIKE, AFTER GRAD-UATION, THERE PROBABLY WON'T BE...

...ANOTHER CHANCE FOR ALL OF US TO MEET.

WE'LL BE DOING DIFFERENT THINGS, SO WE'LL HAVE CON-FLICTING SCHED-ULES.

YEAH ...

OH, YEAH! AND HONOKA WAS OUR TEAM MANAGER, TOO!

OH, YEAH!

I BROUGHT A CAMERA, SO LET'S ALL TAKE A PHOTO AS A KEEP-SAKE!

EVEN THOUGH THERE ARE OUTSIDERS HERE, IT'LL BE A PICTURE OF THE "FORMER TRACK TEAM"!

DON'T LUMP ME IN WITH YOU!

*HA HA!* WE'RE THE OUT-SIDERS, THEN.

ALL RIGHT! I'M GONNA SET THE TIMER!

C'MON, SUZUKA AND AKITSUKI! GET CLOSER TOGETH-ER!

TH... THIS IS CLOSE ENOUGH!

GIGGLE GIGGLE

AKI-TSUKI-KUN, YOUR FACE IS ALL RED!

I... I'M NEXT TO SAKU-RAI!!

HUH ...?

AFTER THIS?

YEAH. YOU TWO HAVE ANY PLANS?

NOT REAL-LY.

ME NEITHER ...

A COOL PLACE?

OKAY, THEN YOU GUYS SHOULD HANG OUT WITH US FOR A BIT.

OH, YOU SHOULD COME TOO IF YOU'RE FREE, SAKURAI.

SAME GOES FOR YOU, OUTSIDER.

UH... SURE.

...

WE'LL TAKE YOU TO A COOL PLACE.

HUH ...?!

KARAOKE
BIG WAKABA

55 Static

KELY

WE STARTED WITHOUT YOU.

TOOK YOU TWO LONG ENOUGH!!

WELL, I MEAN ...!

IT WAS TOUGH KEEPING IT A SECRET, Y'KNOW! SAOTOME-SAN REALLY SEEMED LIKE SHE WANTED TO LET IT OUT!

YOU GUYS SAID YOU COULDN'T HOLD A WEDDING 'CAUSE YOU DON'T HAVE THE MONEY...

...DID ALL THIS FOR US?

YOU GUYS ...

...SO WE THOUGHT WE COULD AT LEAST CELEBRATE AMONG CLOSE FRIENDS AND FAMILY.

OH! YOU TWO CAME!

...

OH... YUI-CHAN! LONG TIME NO SEE!!

CONGRAT-ULATIONS !!

YAMATO-KUN! SUZUKA-CHAN!

C'MON, SIT DOWN! YOU'RE PREG-NANT, AFTER ALL!

GOSH! I'M FINE!

HUH ...?

305

SHE SAID SHE WANTED TO CELEBRATE WITH US.

I INVITED HER FOR THE HECK OF IT, BUT SHE WAS ABLE TO COME.

UH... SURE.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, YAMATO-KUN? COME HERE AND SIT WITH US!

...

OH ...

DON'T WOR-RY.

SHE ISN'T THE KIND OF GIRL WHO HOLDS A GRUDGE FOREVER.

YEAHHH!

VERY FUNNY !!

YEAHHH!

YAMATO-KUN, BUY US A ROUND!!

OKAY! NOW WE CAN REALLY DRINK!!

YOU SURE DON'T KNOW HOW TO BE PATIENT, HUH!

オロローン SOB

WAHHH! I WANNA GET MARRIED TOO!!

WE'RE THINK-ING AROUND MID-JULY.

CHATTER

CHATTER

WHEN'S THE EXPECT-ED DAY, SEMPAI?

YUP!

SHALL WE?

YEAHHH!

NICE! C'MON, AKI-TSUKI! MAKE IT GOOD!!

WH...WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, KINUGASA-SEMPAI? ARE YOU DRUNK, TOO?!

YEAHHH!

HUH ?!

CLATTER

OOOKAY! IT'S TIME FOR THE BIG EVENT!

LET'S HAVE THE COUPLE OF THE NIGHT MAKE IT OFFICIAL WITH A KISS!!

...

C'MON, GET ON WITH IT!

DON'T BE LAME!

A... ARE WE ...?

WE'RE ALL SET!

KIIISS! KIIISS!

YES! KISS!! KISS!!

YEAH, NO! THIS ISN'T GONNA WORK–

...

HUH ?!

SHOVE

HAH!

BEEP

HUHHH ?!

AREN'T YOU EMBAR-RASSED ?

WHOA... THEY REALLY DID IT.

HUH ?!

IT'S QUITE SHOCK-ING, AC-TUALLY SEEING IT FIRST-HAND.

YEAH, BUT YOU AC-TUALLY DID IT!

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO EGGED US ON!

N...NO, MIHO-CHAN!!

OH, I WANT ONE, TOO!

I'LL PRINT YOU A COPY, SUZU-KA!

N...NO, THAT WAS GREAT!

WASN'T IT, SEMPAI ?!

HON-ESTLY, YOU'RE THE WORST ...

HEY !!

YOU GUYS HAVE DONE WAY MORE EMBAR-RASSING STUFF!

WHY ARE YOU BLUSH-ING NOW?

HA HA HA HA! WHAT WAS?!

...

...

OH! NICE, YAMATO! SING THE CARP SONG! THAT ONE ALWAYS GETS LAUGHS!!

YEAHHH!

ALL RIGHT! SING, YAMATO-KUN! SING!!

YEAHHH!

AH, SCREW IT!! I'M JUST GONNA SING THE WHOLE NIGHT AWAY!!

IT ISN'T SUPPOSED TO GET LAUGHS!!

HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU?

ASAHIYU BATHS

I TOLD YOU THAT THAT DOESN'T GO THERE!

YOU KNOW...

PANT

PANT

HEY, OPEN THAT ONE, TOO! THERE'S STILL A LOT LEFT, Y'KNOW?

NO.

CONTENTS: FRAGILE

NIPPON EXPRES

OKAY, OKAY ...

I CAN'T. I'M PREG-NANT.

IT'D BE DANGER-OUS.

MAYBE YOU SHOULD HELP ME!

THIS IS ALL YOUR STUFF, ASAHINA!

SUZUKA

# 涼風 SUZUKA

## #165 THE PROPOSAL

PHEW.

WE'VE TIDIED MOST OF IT, BUT...

...MY ROOM'S GOTTEN A LOT MORE...

CRAMPED.

STILL, IT WOULD'VE BEEN NICE IF WE COULD PUT SOME OF YOUR STUFF IN YOUR ROOM, ASAHINA.

NO. WE'RE GONNA BE SLEEPING THERE, SO I DON'T WANT IT TO BE TOO CLUTTERED.

WELL, THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS ...

...WHEN TWO PEOPLE LIVE TOGETH-ER!

DADDY ...?!

SINCE DADDY WILL BE AT WORK, TOO.

BESIDES, WHEN OUR CHILD LEARNS HOW TO WALK, IT'LL BE DANGEROUS TO HAVE A BUNCH OF STUFF, RIGHT?

HUH ...?

WE'RE NOT NEWLY-WEDS UNTIL WE SUBMIT THIS.

UM ...

WH...WHOA, IT SUDDENLY FEELS LIKE WE'RE NEW-LYWEDS.

IS A CAMERA CREW GONNA POP OUT AND CONGRATU-LATE US?

MARRIAGE
REGISTRATION FORM

平成　年　月　日届出

長殿

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 受理 平成 年 月 日 第 号 | | | | | 発送 平成 年 月 日 長印 | |
| 送付 平成 年 月 日 第 号 | | | | | | |
| 書類調査 | 戸籍記載 | 記載調査 | 調査票 | 附票 | 住民票 | 通知 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 夫になる人 | | 妻になる人 | |
| (よみかた) 氏名 | 名 | 氏 | 名 |
| (1) 生年月日 | 年 月 日 | | 年 月 日 |
| 住所 | 番地 番号 | | 番地 番号 |
| (2) 住民登録をしているところ (よみかた) | | 世帯主の氏名 | |
| 字訂正 字加入 字削除 | | | |
| 届 | 世帯主の氏名 | | 番地 番 |

T... TRUE!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? IF YOU DON'T, WE CAN'T GET MARRIED.

HUH ?

SUD-DENLY I'M NER-VOUS ...

W... WELL... UNDER "WIFE-TO-BE" ...

...IS IT REALLY OKAY IF I WRITE YOUR NAME, ASAHINA?

UH...

...

BUT ...

THESE PAST FEW MONTHS HAVE BEEN A LITTLE CRAZY, SO I TOTALLY FORGOT...

WHAT IS IT NOW?

UH... JUST ...

HUH ?

*...I HAVEN'T PRO-POSED TO YOU, HAVE I?*

WILL YOU... MARRY ME...?

UH ...

HUH ?!

HUH ?!

YOU HAD PLENTY OF OPPOR-TUNITIES!!

IF YOU WERE GOING TO PRO-POSE, YOU SHOULD'VE DONE IT SOONER!

AHH! S... SORRY!! I MEAN, I JUST REMEM-BERED!!

THAT'S SO NOT ROMAN-TIC!!

WHY WOULD YOU PROPOSE HERE?! AND IN SUCH A HALF-ASSED WAY, WHEN WE'RE FILLING OUT OUR MARRIAGE FORM!!

ARE YOU STUPID ?!

HUH ...?!

...

HUH ...?

JEEZ ...

WHAT ...?

WH... WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY ...?

HOW DID I END UP IN LOVE WITH A GUY LIKE YOU...?

I MEAN ... UH ...

YOU'VE NEVER ...

YOU MEAN THE PART ABOUT LOVING YOU?

...?

I...I MEAN, YOU'VE SAID SOME-THING SIMILAR SEVERAL TIMES BEFORE ...

...BUT YOU'VE NEVER ONCE SAID YOU ACTUALLY LOVED ME.

I'M GLAD I FINALLY GOT TO HEAR IT.

THAT'S THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE SAID YOU "LOVE" ME TO MY FACE...

HUH?! REALLY?!

HUH?

S... SOR-RY...

THERE!

CLATTER

HUH? T... TODAY ?!

HII A

OKAY, LET'S TAKE THIS OPPOR-TUNITY TO GO SUBMIT THE MARRIAGE REGIS-TRATION FORM!!

ASAHIYU BATHS

ARE YOU SERIOUS ?!

YEAH! BESIDES, TODAY'S OUR ONLY CHANCE!!

...AND I EVEN PRO-POSED TO YOU, TOO!!

I MEAN, IT'S THE FIRST DAY YOU'VE EVER SAID YOU LOVE ME...

THERE'S JUST A PLACE I WANT TO VISIT ONE LAST TIME.

HEY, WHERE ARE YOU GOING, YAMATO-KUN?

AREN'T WE GOING TO THE WARD OFFICE?

A PLACE YOU WANT TO VISIT ...?

...?

HERE.

カラン

IRATTLE

THE GYM ...?

YOU ...

...MIGHT NOT KNOW, BUT...

WHY IS THIS THE PLACE YOU WANT TO VISIT ONE LAST TIME?

...THREE YEARS AGO, A WEEK BEFORE THE ENTRANCE CEREMONY ...

I WAS HERE WHEN I SAW A GIRL DOING THE HIGH JUMP.

I WAS REALLY IMPRESSED, AND SHE WAS MORE BEAU-TIFUL...

...THAN ANYONE I'D EVER SEEN. I FELL FOR HER AT FIRST SIGHT.

HUH ...?

WHEN I DISCOVERED THAT SHE ACTUALLY LIVED IN THE APARTMENT NEXT TO ME, I THOUGHT TO MYSELF THAT IT WAS MEANT TO BE...

あ…あれ!?

ガン

WE FOUGHT LIKE CRAZY, BUT...

考えてないわよ 雨の日の予定なんて!!

だいたい そーゆーのは男が考えるモノでしょ

何か考えてるよ 見うて

...WE GRADUALLY GREW TO LIKE EACH OTHER...

カチン

えらばっか 悪いってのかよ!! 仕方ねーじゃん!!

I ASKED YOU OUT AND YOU REJECTED ME ...

ずっと好きだったんだ!!

BUT I NEVER GAVE UP, AND I KEPT ASKING YOU OUT AND KEPT GETTING REJECTED ...

リカに…

オレは絶対好きだ!!

絶対あきらめないよ!!

同情しようと思ってるの…

お前のことが好きだ!!

AND WHEN YOU FINALLY GAVE ME THE CHANCE, YOU HAD TO GO STUDY ABROAD...

...AND SO WE BROKE UP...

好きな人がいるの…

私やっぱり…

アンタのこと嫌いみたい!!

ゴメン

10

YA-MATO-KUN ...

BUT AFTER ALL'S SAID AND DONE ...

...I GET TO MARRY THAT GIRL!

THIS PLACE IS WHERE IT ALL STARTED ...

...SO I WANTED TO VISIT IT ONE LAST TIME.

TOUCH

!!

HUH ...?

IT WON'T BE THE LAST TIME.

...

WHOOSH

DO YOU REMEMBER THREE YEARS AGO... WHEN WE WENT SHOPPING ... WE PRAYED AT THE SHRINE?

UH... YEAH.

THIS IS WHERE IT WILL ALL BEGIN AGAIN.

THIS TIME, WITH THREE OF US!

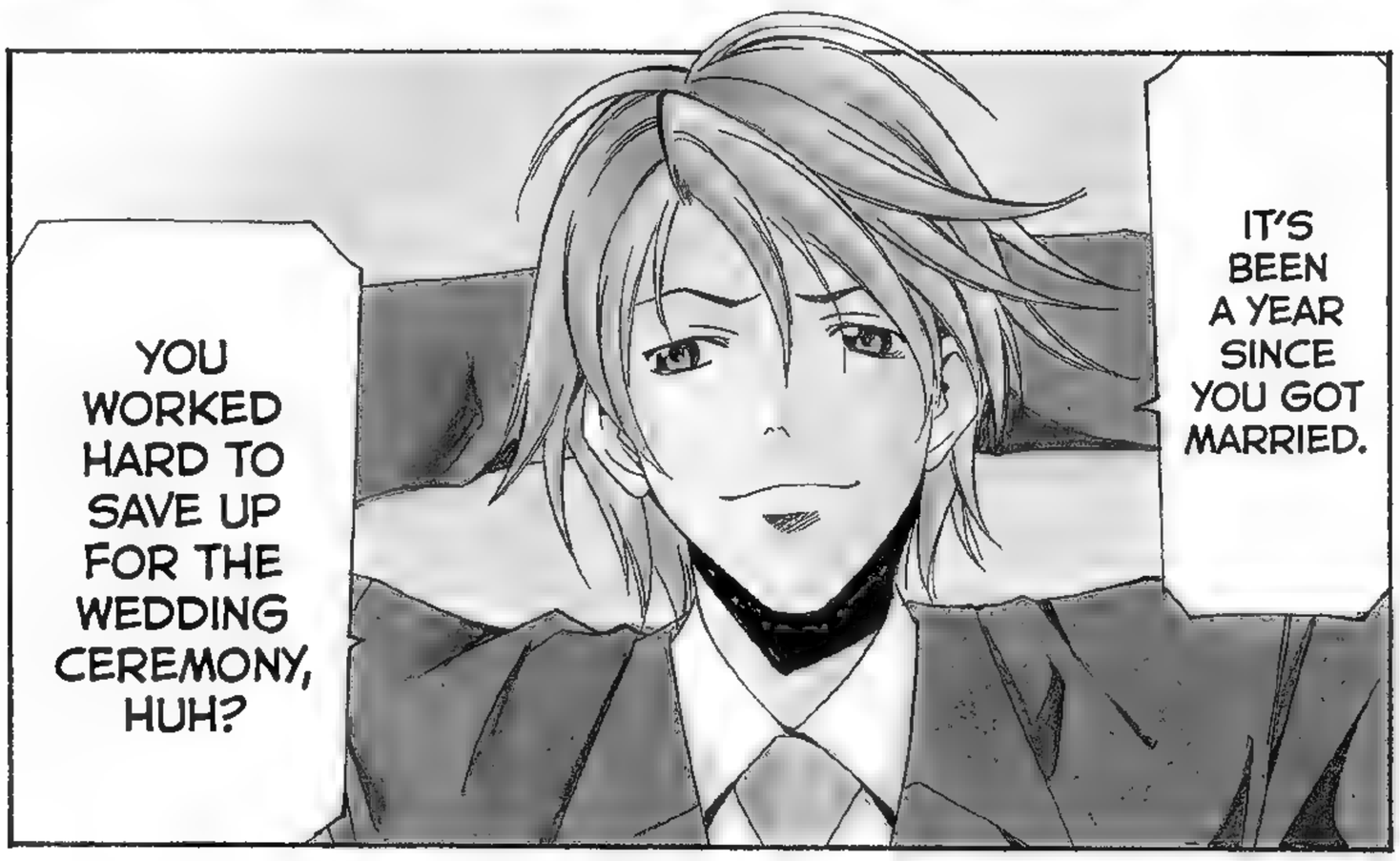
HUH? WHAT WAS IT THAT YOU PRAYED ABOUT?

YOU KNOW...MY PRAYERS WERE ANSWERED.

DID YOU FORGET?

*IT WAS ...*

*...FOR SOMETHING GOOD TO HAPPEN.*


YOU WORKED HARD TO SAVE UP FOR THE WEDDING CEREMONY, HUH?
IT'S BEEN A YEAR SINCE YOU GOT MARRIED.

YAMATO, FIX YOUR TIE! IT'S CROOKED!
I...I KNOW!!

KER-CHAK
YAMATO-KUN, ARE YOU READY?

...I WANTED HER TO AT LEAST HAVE A WEDDING DRESS...
WELL, A RECEP-TION WAS OUT OF THE QUES-TION, BUT...

SUZUKA

# 涼風 SUZUKA

#166 **SUZUKA**

...

HUH ?

WHAT DO YOU THINK, AKITSUKI? YOU'RE FALLING FOR HER ALL OVER AGAIN, AREN'T YOU?

CLATTER カﾀﾝ

WOWWW! YOU'RE SO PRETTY, SUZUKA-CHAN!!

OH MY! YOU REALLY ARE!

TH... THANKS, YOU GUYS.

I AM.

YEAH ...

THANKS!

SH... SHUT UP!

GIGGLE GIGGLE

OH! YOU'VE GROWN UP A BIT, YAMATO!

WHAT YOU JUST SAID WAS SO GENUINE!

OH DEAR! WHAT IS IT NOW?

WAHHH! WAHHH!

UH... OKAY.

KER-CHAK カリ キィ ャー

SUZUKA, YAMATO-KUN, IT'S ABOUT TIME.

PLEASE GET READY.

HEY! WHAT?! IS THAT YAMATO'S KID?!

I WANNA SEE! I WANNA SEE!

I GUESS SHE'S JUST SURPRISED BEING AROUND SO MANY STRANGERS.

WAHHH! WAHHH!

OH, I'M SORRY, MRS. ASAHINA.

SHE'S HEAVY, ISN'T SHE?

WAHHH!

WAHHH!

FUUKA-CHAN, THANK GOODNESS YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE YOUR FATHER!

THAT'S FOR SURE!

Y...YOU IDIOT!! SHE HAS MY EYES!!

AWWW! SO CUTE! WHAT'S HER NAME?!

"FUUKA," WRITTEN WITH THE CHARACTERS FOR "WIND" AND "SUMMER."

WH... WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?

MMPH!

STUPID PAR-ENT.

GUH-AHH

GIGGLE GIGGLE

YAMATO-KUN KEPT SAYING HE WANTED A BOY...

...BUT HE'S BEEN GLUED TO FUUKA SINCE SHE WAS BORN!

...SO SHE DOESN'T ASSOCIATE WITH ANY CREEPS.

I GOTTA KEEP HER CLOSE...

STAY AWAY, CREEP!

WELL, I'M ALWAYS HERE TO HELP!

UNLIKE AKITSUKI, YOU HAVEN'T GROWN UP AT ALL...

SHE REALLY IS CUTE, THOUGH.

IT KINDA MAKES ME WANT TO HAVE KIDS, TOO.

GIGGLE

GIGGLE

OH... SORRY.

WHAT'S GOING ON? LET'S HURRY UP.

OKAY.

WE WON'T BE LONG, SO YOU GO ON AHEAD, SUZUKA.

AH, I ALMOST FORGOT.

YAMATO-KUN, I'D LIKE TO HAVE A WORD WITH YOU.

HUH ...?

UH... SURE.

WHAT DID YOU WANT TO...

...UH ...

UH ... UM ...

TMP

TO BE HONEST, I WAS SURE YOU WERE GOING TO COME CRYING TO ME ALONG THE WAY.

GOOD JOB THIS PAST YEAR.

... GOOD JOB.

...

LAST YEAR, WHEN YOU SHOWED ME THE PHOTO ALBUM ...

...I THOUGHT I KNEW WHAT IT'D BE LIKE TO BE A FATHER.

HM? FOR WHAT?

I'M SOR- RY ...

HUH ?

BUT WHEN FUUKA WAS BORN...

...THE MORE I THOUGHT ABOUT HOW PRECIOUS SHE WAS, THE MORE I UNDER-STOOD.

IT FINALLY DAWNED ON ME HOW EXCITED YOU WERE...

...FOR YOUR DAUGHTER'S FUTURE... AND HOW HARD IT WAS FOR YOU...

...WHEN ALL THAT CHANGED BECAUSE OF ME.

IT'S TRUE THAT, MORE THAN ANYTHING, I WAS EXCITED FOR HER FUTURE.

HUH ...?

WHICH WAS WHY I WANTED ALL THE MORE TO BEAT THE LIVING DAYLIGHTS ...

...OUT OF THE MERE 18-YEAR-OLD BOY WHO TOOK IT ALL AWAY.

...

...THAT MIGHT BE A PARENT'S EGO...

HOW-EVER ...

ALL I CAN PRAY FOR IS HER HAPPI-NESS.

WHAT-EVER ROAD SHE CHOOS-ES...

IF SHE UNDER-STOOD WHAT SHE WAS GETTING INTO, THEN IT WASN'T MY PLACE TO INTERFERE.

...

THAT IS WHY ...

...I'M ACTUALLY THANKFUL.

AND YOU AN-SWERED THAT PRAYER.

I CAN TELL WHEN I LOOK AT HER.

...ENTRUST SUZUKA TO YOU WITH MY MIND AT PEACE.

I CAN NOW ...

THANK YOU...

TAKE GOOD CARE OF THOSE TWO, OKAY?

YES, SIR ...

I'LL DO MY BEST!

UH ...

THANK YOU... I...

PAT

NOW, NOW, THIS IS A WEDDING CEREMONY, ISN'T IT?

MY DAUGHTER WILL BE WATCHING, SO LOOK SHARP!

HM ?

HEY DAD, WHAT DID YOU END UP TALKING TO YAMATO-KUN ABOUT?

HE SEEMED SUPER NERVOUS WHEN I SAW HIM EARLIER ...

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

WE JUST HAD A MAN-TO-MAN TALK.

...

WHAT ?

HMPH...

TMP

!!

OH... THERE THEY ARE!!

CREAK

CHEER

10
11
7
CATCH

AWW, YOU'RE SO LUCKY, HONOKA-CHAN.

INVITE ME TO THE CERE-MONY, OKAY ?!

HUH ?!

WHAT ?!

OHHH, ME TOO!!

OOOH! SO YOU'RE GETTING MARRIED NEXT, SAKU-RAI!

OH...I CAUGHT THE BOU-QUET ...

THANK YOU...

...YA-MATO-KUN.

HM? WHAT FOR?

WHY ARE YOU SAYING THAT?

THAT ALL GOES WITHOUT SAYING!

'CAUSE OF THE WAY I AM, I WAS ALWAYS SELFISH... AND DID STUFF THAT GOT YOU IN TROUBLE...

...AND YET YOU KEPT PURSUING ME...

HONESTLY, IT MADE ME SO HAPPY.

BUT THIS TIME, IT'S MY TURN TO DO THE PURSUING.

HUH ...?

BECAUSE...

...I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT YOU, YAMATO-KUN.

HUH? WHA? WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU?!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN? THAT'S HOW I FEEL.

...

S-SOR-RY!!

OH!

...BUT IT'S TIME TO TAKE PIC-TURES!

YO! I'M SORRY TO IN-TERRUPT YOUR LOVE FEST...

OH, YEAH, SURE!

OKAY, AYANO-SAN, COULD YOU TAKE THE PIC-TURE?

CHATTER

I'M NEXT TO SAKU-RAI!!

URK ...

SEMPAI, YOU'RE TALL, SO YOU GO TO THE BACK.

CHATTER

HEY YOU TWO, COME IN CLOS-ER.

SAY CHEESE!

ARE YOU READY?

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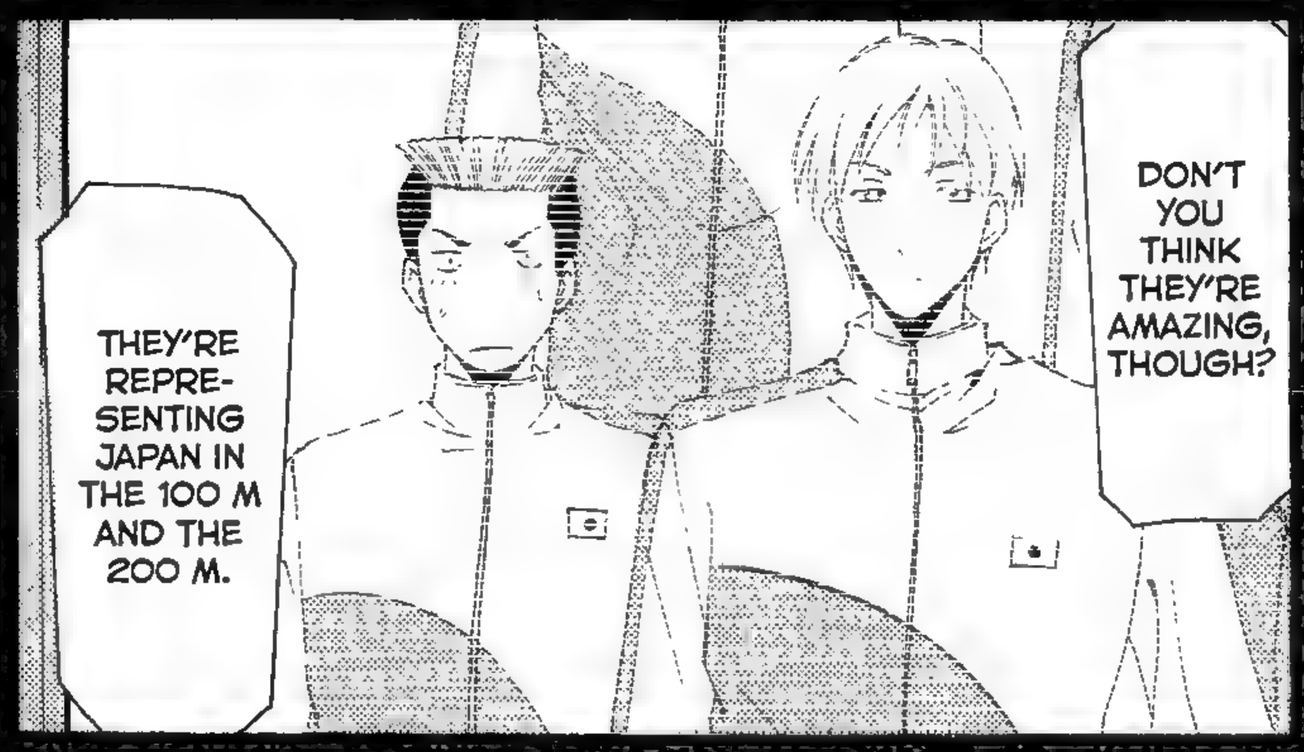
# SUZUKA AKITSUKI



TIGHTEN

I KNOW! HE'S GETTING ON MY CASE ABOUT THE NEXT MEET!

DON'T LOOK AT THOSE GUYS. JUST FOCUS ON DOING YOUR BEST, YAMATO-KUN.

KINUGASA-SEMPAI'S GONNA GET MAD AT YOU AGAIN, Y'KNOW?

S... SUZUKA ...

OKAY, I'M OFF TO WORK.

...

...?

WHAT'S THE MAT-TER?

SHUSH, YOU!!

DAAAH!

WHAT? YOU'RE STILL BLUSHING ABOUT THAT?

DADDY'S SO WEIRD, ISN'T HE?

HUH?

WHAT ABOUT MY GOOD-BYE KISS?

OH? I WONDER WHAT THAT COULD BE!

WH... WHY NOT? AFTER EV-ERYTHING YOU SAID YESTER-DAY!!

HUHHH?!

SQUEEZE

DADAAAH!

DON'T BE SUCH A BABY!

SINCE MOMMY'S BEING MEAN, I'LL GET A KISS FROM FUUKA INSTEAD!

FINE!

N...NOW, FUUKA, YOU'RE HURTING DADDY!

GAH!

GAH!

YAAANK

KICK

OWWW!!

IF YOU STAND STILL ...

301

YAMATO AKITSUK

OH, I'LL SEE YOU OFF.

OKAY, I'M OFF!

KER-CHAK

MIHO-CHAN'S GONNA GET ANGRY IF YOU SAY THAT.

OH... YOUR AUNT'S HERE, FUUKA.

DING DONG

ONII-CHAN! C'MON, ALREADY !!

...NOTHING WILL CHANGE.

C'MON! HURRY! IT'S AL-READY 8, Y'KNOW ?!

YIKES! THAT'S NOT GOOD!

BUT IF YOU TAKE ...

HAVE FUN!

BE CARE-FUL, YOU TWO!

MEOW!

...A SMALL STEP FORWARD NOW...

WORK HARD, YAMATO-KUN!

YEAH! LEAVE IT TO ME!!

...MAYBE SOMETHING WILL.

**Fin.**

# SUZUKA-MON

KABU TO MUSHI COMICS

## CHAPTER 7:
## THE ONE WHERE SUZUKA-MON COMES BACK

KOJI G. SEO

ASAHIYU BATHS
GOOD MORNING, YAMATO-KUN!
YAWN ...
SO SLEEPY ...
カ!! チャ: KER-CHAK
OH, UH ...
YEAH ...
TODAY'S WEATHER IS NICE, TOO, ISN'T IT?!
NHK
YAMATO AKITSUKI
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU SEEM OUT OF IT ...
OH... IT'S NOTH-ING...

YEAH ...

REALLY?

I HOPE SO...

...

TMP

OKAY, THEN COME ON!

WE'RE GONNA BE LATE FOR MORN-ING PRAC-TICE!

I WAS JUST CURIOUS ...

SO THIS ASAHINA DOESN'T CARE FOR RAMEN MUCH.

HUH? IT'S ALL RIGHT.

WHY ?

UH ...

BY THE WAY, ASA-HINA, DO YOU LIKE RAMEN?

I REALLY ENJOY BEING WITH HER.

GIGGLE

YOU'RE WEIRD.

BUT UNLIKE **THAT** ASAHINA, THIS ONE'S NICE ...

AND SHE DOESN'T DO ANYTHING RASH, EITHER...

BUT...

I WONDER...

...WHY I HAVE THIS NAGGING FEELING FROM BEFORE OF BEING UNSATISFIED.

THE ECCENTRIC PERSONALITY THAT DEVIATES FROM THE NORMAL...

AGHHH!!

LEAVE MY STUFF ALONE!!

YOU TOUCHED MY MAKE-UP POUCH AGAIN, DIDN'T YOU?!

SCRATCH

THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE THAT SEEMINGLY REPEATS ITSELF DAILY...

THE MENTAL STATE OF CROSSING A COLLAPSING BRIDGE WHILE BLINDFOLD-ED...!

BADUMP

BADUMP

THE THRILLING DAYS WHERE YOUR ANSWERS DETERMINE WHEN YOU DIE...

AHHH! I'M SCREWED!

RAWRRR!!

BUT COULD IT BE THAT...

...BEING ON THE BRINK OF DEATH HAS MADE ME REALIZE THE JOY OF BEING ALIVE?!

BADUMP

HUH ?!

I'M SORRY, ASA-HINA!!

NO ... UH ...

WH... WHAT'S WRONG, YAMATO-KUN? YOU'RE SWEAT-ING!

ARE YOU NOT FEELING WELL?!

?!

BOING

POP

I'M BACK ...

OH...

...

YA-MATO-KUN...

YEAH!

IT REALLY IS BETTER THIS WAY!

SCRATCH

HUHHH?!

IT'S NO JOKE THAT I HAVE TO LOOK AFTER YOU AGAIN, YAMATO-KUN!

UGH! WHAT A PAIN!!

HUH ?

I'M NOT HAPPY AT ALL!!

HA HA HA! SO SOR-RY.

HEY... WIPE THAT BIG SMILE OFF YOUR FACE. IT'S CREEPY!!

HA HA! SO SOR-RY.

I THOUGHT I'D NEVER HAVE TO SEE YOU AGAIN!!

WHY DID YOU RETURN THINGS TO THE WAY THEY WERE?!

SCRATCH

SCRATCH

OWWW !!

I'M SERIOUS! IT'S CREEPY!!

I HATE IT!!

★ END OF VOLUME 7 ★

# "Suzuka" Afterword

When you like someone, and you get rejected, what do you do if you end up dating them anyway...? No doubt, it's a scenario that can happen to anyone.

The everyday worries and troubles, anxieties and setbacks... These were the themes I tried to illustrate in "Suzuka." At the start of its serialization, I was really worried, thinking, "is it okay for me to totally disregard those romance manga formulas...?" but I received lots of letters saying, "I root for Yamato because I see myself in him," and "The story takes me back to my high school days," which gave me a lot of confidence to see this storyline through.

To my editor, who encouraged me when I was consumed by these worries; to my staff, who worked hard with me; and to all the readers who supported me until the very end, I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Thank you so much for the past three and a half years, and I hope for your continued support in the future!

Kouji Seo

**Suzuka 18**

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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